

STORIES FOR CHILDREN

The Wonderful Story of Hulda Joy, Whose Magic Words Freed the Prince Charming From a Genie's Terrible Spell After He Had Been a Tiny Green Parrot for Thousands of Years



"THEY SAW IN THE CENTRE OF THE CIRCLE A MOST TERRIBLE CREATURE"

Her Little Nephew's Burning Curiosity to See a Real Old-Time Monster Has a Terrifying, Though Afterwards Happy, Result

ONCE there was a boy named Albert Joy, who had the smartest parrot that I ever saw. This bird would talk just as naturally as most boys and girls, and by the way, he seemed to know what words and phrases meant, and used them intelligently, so that people were almost frightened at some of the things he said, for it really seemed like magic.

He would answer a question just like a human being would, and answer it as correctly, too. He knew the names of all the people who came to the house, all of the servants and the dogs, and would address them by name. Of course he had all the little tricks of imitating dogs barking, kittens crying and the like, as well as a great gift for whistling, singing and laughing, but these he seemed to do only to amuse folks, and he did not seem to consider them as serious matters as other parrots do.

The name of this accomplished bird was Grits, and I've often wondered how he came to be so named, but no one in the Joy family knew, as he had been sold to Mr. Joy by a sailor, who said he had bought him on the island of Madagascar.

Grits was not kept in a cage, but was allowed to go anywhere he pleased, all over the house, and no matter where you were you would suddenly be startled by hearing a voice at your elbow speaking something, maybe poetry or some funny joke, when you knew no person was in the room but yourself.

Albert's father was a manufacturer of safety pins, and very rich, indeed, and his son was brought up to have everything he wanted, so that he was a very happy boy most of the time. He had more toys than a toy store, and the very finest kind; engines that went by real steam or electricity, for instance, electric batteries, chemicals, ponies, pets, books—in fact, I couldn't tell you anything that boy didn't have.

Studied the Black Art

One day his aunt Hulda arrived home from college, where she had been studying for ten or fifteen years, and she came to stay at their house. The very same day that Aunt Hulda came Mr. Joy lost all his money, and became a very poor man, because he had invested his fortune in a patent potato-peeling machine, which would not work at all. He did not tell Albert that he was now a poor man, and would have to begin all over again to make a million or two, but he hid all his grief, and talked to Hulda just as if nothing had happened. She was delighted to get home after all these years of hard study. She kept walking around the house and speaking about all the old familiar objects.

"And here is dear old Grits!" she cried. "It does me good to see him again. Ah, I wish that I could learn as easily and remember as you, dear Grits! I would not have had to study more than eight or nine years, then."

"Well, it's all over," said Mr. Joy. "and now you are home again. Tell me now, what have you learned in all these years at the Woman's College at Hentown?"

"Oh, many things, brother dear. I have learned plain and fancy cooking, psychology, Sanscrit verbs, Polynesian folklore, band playing and magic."

"Magic? What kind of magic? Card tricks and bringing bowls of goldfish from nothing, like Professor Kellar?" asked Mr. Joy.

"Oh, no, indeed; nothing of that sort, for that is only juggling. I have studied the Black Art—real, genuine magic! For five years now I've studied nothing but ancient and mystic books that treat of demons, wizards, vampires, gnomes, genie and familiar spirits. Now I am a graduate, and I can, if I wish, summon a genie, for instance, and make him obey my spell."

"That's great," said Mr. Joy. (But of course he thought she was just joking.) "I wish you would just call up one with a lot of money, for I have bills to pay tomorrow."

"I would do so, but I am afraid he would frighten you," she answered, with a laugh.

"He wouldn't frighten me!" cried Albert. "And I wish you would call a genie, so that I could see just what one looked like. Please, Aunt Hulda, do!"

"Now wouldn't a genie be angry—a great enormous genie, about fifty feet high and thousands of years old to find that I had summoned him just to let a little boy see what he looked like? The idea!" You see, Hulda had been away from home and didn't know that Albert got everything he asked for. He teased her all the evening until he went to bed to show him a genie; he didn't care what kind or how big, as long as he was a real genie like the ones he had read about in the "Arabian Nights." He was sure any one would be horrible enough to satisfy him, and as long as his aunt was able to boss them,

he couldn't see why she wouldn't oblige him.

Aunt Hulda did not tell him nor his father that, although she had learned all about such things, she had never had courage enough to call one up and try to boss him. She was just as afraid as could be to see one, and you would have thought she had never studied anything at all about them. Sometimes she would brace up and say, "Now, I'll just compel one to appear and obey my commands!" but when she opened her mouth to speak the words, to utter the awful spell that compels a demon or genie to appear, she would be unable to whisper, and so she had never seen a thing but the pictures of genie in the Book of Magic that she studied. She really didn't know whether they looked like the pictures or not. In fact, it is hard to say what good all her studies would have done her if Albert had not teased and teased to see a demon or a genie.

He had never been refused anything before, and he wouldn't let up until he got what he wanted, so every hour in the day he begged and coaxed his aunt to get out her genies and incantations and summon something from the world of fairy tales. He made his aunt's life a burden, and one day just to satisfy him a little she showed him the Book of Magic, containing all the spells and recipes for producing demons, and genies which the old-time wizards and necromancers used. It was filled with pictures of great black, horned, winged and tailed monsters, some chained to marble pillars by old King Solomon, the boss genie charmer, or flying to obey a magic spell, or lying to obey a magic spell, or flying to obey a magic spell, or lying to obey a magic spell.

But the pictures did not frighten Albert, as Aunt Hulda had expected them to do. They only sharpened his appetite and desire for genie, and he teased all the more. He took the book, not a bit afraid, and opening it, pointed out the spells she was to say, and begged her to say them, and, in fact, was just going to say a spell himself, when she grabbed the book away from him. Nobody knows what would have happened if Albert in his ignorance had said a spell and mixed it up in some way or pronounced the big words wrong, for he might have summoned not one genie, but a whole company of them, for, as you will see, the spells in the old book worked all right when uttered by the proper person.

These demons and things that might have answered him would have been no doubt far more troublesome than the one who finally came, because a number of evils is worse than a single one. No single evil, though, could have been worse than the one that befell them, when at last Aunt Hulda gave in and said she would call up a genie. She had grown tired of Albert's pleadings, and perhaps she secretly hoped that the genie would get him anyway, for he surely was a nuisance.

Albert was delighted, and hurried to get his camera; for he wanted to take a picture of the genie just as he arrived in the room. His aunt got out her book and looked up a recipe for summoning an Arabian genie of the first class, for she

made up her mind that now that she was in for it she would have the very best or none at all. Then she sent Albert out to cut a willow wand two feet two inches

long, for that was the very first essential.

While he was going she read the book, and on his return she said he must go to the drug store for several things which she had to burn in order to prepare the room for the arrival of the genie. He made her look carefully to see if he had put down all the things, for he didn't want to spend the evening running around after the ingredients and lose the show. Then she selected the name of the genie that she would call, and decided to summon Allah-pol-azar, who was a fierce and awful being in Solomon's time, but who had never been heard of since.

When Albert returned with the herbs and perfumes she had a lot of pots, kettles and pans arranged in a circle around the room, and the things he brought were placed in them. Soon the room was filled with the scent of rare herbs burning, for she lighted them all, and sweet perfumes from Ceylon, Borneo, Brazil and Hokus, which caused old Grits to sneeze.

A Terrible Genie Arrives

"Everything is ready," said Aunt Hulda, trembling a great deal, now that the dreaded moment had arrived. "I don't know, after all, whether I will have courage to say the words when I step into the circle of incantation. Here is the Book of Magic. You see, these are the magic words that will summon a demon and these below are the ones you must say to send him away again, for that is as important as his coming. Now, you hold the book and I will repeat the words to see if I have them correctly, for I can't take a mistake, even in one syllable, all is spoiled and the genie will not appear."

Albert held the old book, and Aunt Hulda repeated these awful words very carefully and slowly:

"Arismagistum, Alimony Barracouta, Bismuth, Carara, Dolichocephalo Squimkumlo, O, Monamike Sophisticatissimus, Sequitor-quamus, obiter Hytaspes, Zimm,

zamm, zumm! Appear, Allah-pol-azar, appear; I summon thee!"

She didn't make one mistake, and then she repeated the spell to dismiss the genie, as follows:

"Squattimus vamosos, Sambaguisumbilico muclagino, Exit Allah-pol-azar. All over!"

This she had all right, also, and she breathed easier, and, taking up the branches of dried Rhismagistro plant in her left and the willow wand in her right hand, she stepped inside of the charmed circle. She lighted the plant, and as the smoke rose to the ceiling and Grits sneezed again, she repeated the words of the summoning spell. As she said, "Appear, Allah-pol-azar; I summon thee!" there was an awful clap of thunder that shook the house to the cellar, and all was dark for an instant, then a brilliant light filled the room, and they saw in the centre of the circle a most terrible creature! He was not an immense being like those in the pictures, but a dwarf, black and misshapen, with horns like a genie's and eyes, too, but as to everything else he was completely different and very unsatisfactory indeed. He looked at them with an evil smile for a few minutes before he spoke, then he said:

"You have summoned me, and I have come. I am Allah-pol-azar, the great and only. Monarch of wide and deep, of lofty and low. Mistress of the secret spell, I salute thee! What are thy commands?"

Now, neither Hulda nor Albert had thought of having any commands ready, they had been so busy with the spells, and she stammered a while before she said: "Er—we haven't any orders just at the moment. The fact is, we just wanted to see if you would answer the spell."

"To test my devotion and my promise," the genie smiled. "You are, no doubt, the daughter of Solomon, wise maiden, and this the Prince of Israel, who stands beside thee without the circle. Well, you

into a little yellow dog right before their eyes! The little dog crept behind Hulda as if for protection, and she begged the genie to restore him to his right shape. The monster as yet did not know whether Hulda could punish him as Solomon used to do or not, and so he was rather afraid of her, and he turned Mr. Joy into a man again in another moment.

"I wished to show you my power," he said, grinning. "I could turn you all into every kind of animal there is in the Zoo if I wished." Then he made a pass at the parlor table and changed it into a fountain, which, of course, began to squirt all over the carpet and flood the house. Hulda cried: "Stop! stop! Change it back quick or we will be drowned out!" The genie changed it back to a table, and then Hulda ran up to her room, and, stepping inside of the charmed circle began to repeat several words of the spell that would dismiss the demon. She repeated several words and then stopped. She had forgotten the spell and the book was destroyed.

A House of Gold and Diamonds

That night the genie said he would take Mr. Joy's bedroom to sleep in, and Mr. Joy slept with Albert. But the bedroom was not fine enough for Mr. Genie, so he changed the walls to pure gold all set with diamonds and rubies as big as eggs, as well as emeralds and sapphires and pearls like marbles for size. It was the most dazzlingly beautiful place you could imagine, and made Albert's eyes blink as he looked in in the morning to see if the genie was in bed. But he was not, for he had risen and was walking around his neighborhood looking at the houses. When he came in it was breakfast time, and he sat down; but he didn't like American dishes, so he changed everything to Arabian food.

He said he found much fault with the front of the house, as it did not look rich enough, and after breakfast he went out and altered it to the most magnificent

placed marble statues and gold fountains filled with strange fish there, and lions and tigers chained to crystal pillars, while the most wonderful birds flew among the tropical trees. The whole city was aroused at the changes he made, for if he didn't like anybody's looks he turned him into something, and Hulda was him busy begging him to undo his mischievous work.

Then, all of a sudden, after he had been there two days, he said he would marry Hulda and make her Queen of America. She refused and he grew very angry, but he was still a little afraid of her. He told her he would give her until morning to think it over, and just to show her how fond of her he was and how much he loved her, he turned her into a man again in another moment.

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his net and put back again, and he said that genie was a silly creature to let a mere man get the best of him.

When they had seen everything they found themselves at home as suddenly as they had gone to Arabia, and, to Hulda's sorrow, they also found that the two days had passed, although it had only seemed a few hours. The genie said: "I must have an answer in one hour, or I will turn you into a man again in another moment. What do you care for your Constitution? Show it to me."

"I will read it to you," said Aunt Hulda, and she got the history book and began to read the Constitution to him.

If you have never felt like the genie did, then you can tell how it was by getting somebody to read the Constitution to you. Allah-pol-azar was quiet for some time, trying to understand what he heard, but pretty soon he began to squint and wriggle, and then to yawn and nod, but he didn't dare tell her to stop, for it sounded so grand and mysterious to him that he was a little bit afraid. He said it might be another charm or incantation of some sort that would do things to him. By and by he went sound asleep, and Hulda began to try to remember the words once more that would send him away. She went when she found that she couldn't recall more than two or three.

"Alas! I shall have to marry him to save my family!" she cried, "and be a queen, too! I want to be a queen, and there surely will be a revolution if I will be beheaded just like Marie Antoinette."

"Oh, don't have to," said a hoarse voice and looking up she saw Grits sitting on the foot of the bed. He had hidden away for the time the genie had been there, and nobody had seen him.

"Oh, Grits, dear, whatever shall I do?" she asked.

"Weds the Enchanted Prince"

Grits hopped down and walked awkwardly inside of the magic circle of smoke and steam. He then beckoned her with his crooked claw to come in there to him. She stepped inside at once, for she knew him to be a wise old bird. Just as she got inside the genie woke up, as he lost the sound of her voice ringing to him. He started and stared at her.

"Hi, there, what are you doing in there?" "Come right out of that!" he shouted.

"Why?" asked Hulda, feeling a little more secure as she saw he was somewhat scared.

"If you don't come right out I will begin to change all your family into unpleasant insects and things," said Allah-pol-azar, gritting his teeth, but turning pale as he thought of going back to his pile of old iron.

"I won't!" said Hulda, firmly, as she thought of being a queen and getting beheaded.

The genie rolled his scarlet eyes and raised his hands to begin to charm them, but as he opened his mouth old Grits opened his.

He said: "Squattimus vamosos; sambaguisumbilico muclagino! Exit Allah-pol-azar. All over!"

When Grits began to utter the dismissing spell, Allah-pol-azar began to wriggle all over; great drops of cold perspiration came out upon his forehead, and gooseflesh broke out all over his body. His red eyes popped out in terror and he tried to move, but he couldn't stir. Hulda could see that he was almost fainting with fright, but she wasn't sorry for him at all.

He turned a pale green as Grits got to the end of the incantation, and as he pronounced the last word a blue smoke began to rise from Allah-pol-azar's body, and then, with an awful yell and a contortion that twisted him all into knots, he disappeared entirely, leaving nothing but a thin wreath of smoke in the air.

"Oh, you darling old Grits!" cried Hulda, "what wouldn't I give for a memory like yours! You only heard the words of the charm once, and yet you remembered them all!"

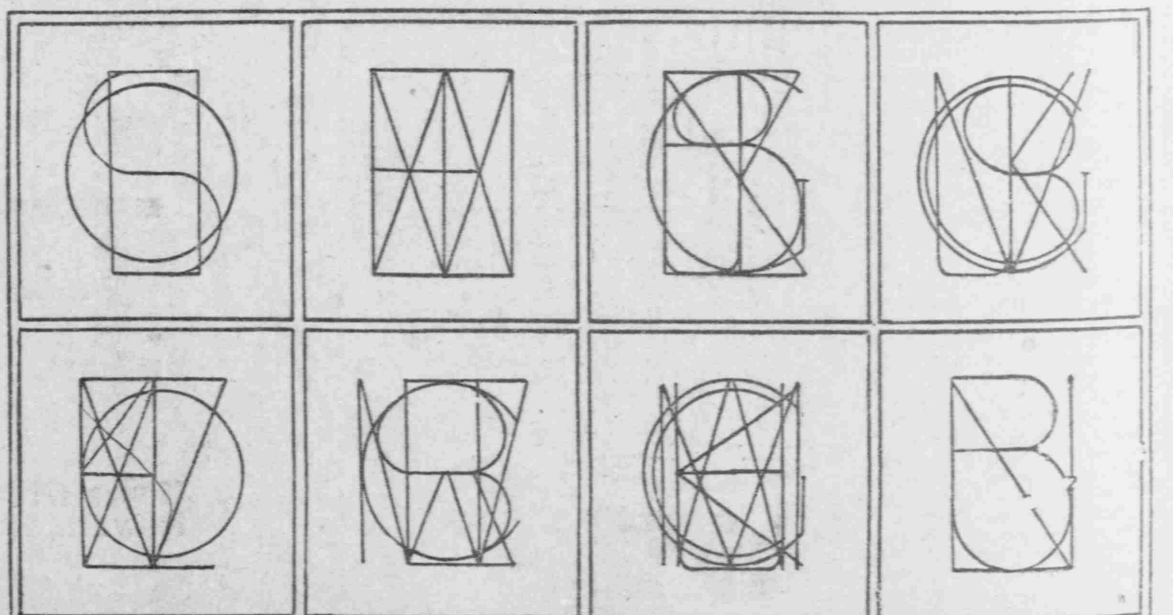
"I had need to remember them, for they were the words that were to restore me to my shape," he said, a sweet voice, and Hulda looked around to see a handsome young man standing in the circle of smoke.

"I am the Prince Charming of whom you have read," said he, "and the genie long ago changed me into a parrot. I have been waiting many years to escape him, but you furnished me the first opportunity. Will you marry me?" he asked.

"It didn't take Hulda two days to make up her mind this time, and she married the Prince, who took her to his own land and so she became a queen, after all, but when Mr. Joy disposed of some of the big pile of precious stones that the genie had left he was so immensely rich that he could have bought ten kingdoms, and Albert had just as much fun as any young king's son ever had. But, I tell you, rich as they were, they missed Grits every day, and no matter how they tried they couldn't get another parrot, who could even count six without making a mistake. So Grits it is only parrots who have been princes that can be as smart as Grits was, don't you?"

WALT McDUGALL.

THE MONOGRAM WORD PUZZLE



In last week's number was presented the names of cities in monogram. They were those of a Presidential candidate's home, a seat of learning, the location of a revolutionary battle, a State capital named after a foreign statesman, a centre of culture, a national capital named after its own country, the capital of a Southern State, and a modern city named after an ancient one. They were Lincoln, Ithaca, Concord, Bismarck, Boston, Mexico, Atlanta and Troy. The monograms presented above when deciphered spell the names of battles of the civil war.